

workplace by building upon the current successes of vocational and technical education. Our challenge is to ensure that all vocational and technical education students have access to programs that are sufficiently rigorous in both their academic and technical content, as well as provide clear connections with the education and training beyond high school that most Americans need for continued workplace success. I believe this bill fulfills those high standards, and I am pleased to be offering it today.

H. CON. RES. 413

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution honoring the contributions of the more than 6 million American women, symbolized by "Rosie the Riveter", who served our country on the homefront during World War II and the changes to our society that came about because of them. These women stepped forward when our country needed them to work as engineers and welders and riveters to produce the ships and planes and tanks necessary for us to win the war.

I recently visited a factory in Athens, New York, that makes electric boats. They told me that even in this town of less than 4000 people, this boat factory was filled with women workers during World War II. The women factory workers made hundreds of thousands of life rafts to support the troops serving at sea. The whole country turned into a big factory to support the war effort, and the women workers were the force behind that factory.

The legacy of Rosie the Riveter is a broadening of opportunities to all Americans. For the first time in America, during World War II, women and minorities gained access to high-paying jobs in industry. Employee-sponsored health care and services such as child care for children of workers originated at this time. I join my colleagues today in applauding the improvements in the workplace and our society during the Rosie the Riveter Era and in honoring these women for stepping forward when their country needed them.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the City of San Diego Community and Economic Development. The City of San Diego Community and Economic Development is the winner of the Economic Development Administration's Excellence in Economic Development Award for 2004 in the category of Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development. San Diego Community and Economic Development was given this honor for the program of Business Fi-

nance Section by a panel of economic development experts. The city of San Diego and the state of California should be extremely proud of this achievement.

Helping businesses in San Diego grow and flourish is a major focus of the City of San Diego. The Community and Economic Development Department is dedicated to helping foster the region's economic base to improve the quality of life for its citizens and business community. Through many continuing programs and projects, the City creates opportunities for businesses to succeed. The Department is a key component in attracting, retaining and expanding businesses, creating jobs and increasing investment in San Diego.

San Diego Community and Economic Development's Business Finance Team works to facilitate the flow of capital and other resources to the underserved areas of the city. Activities of the Business Development Team include issuance of industrial development bonds and direct loans. The Team also works closely with the banking community and encourages banks to develop and commit to San Diego-specific programs that provide expanded credit and banking services access for low-income communities and small and minority-owned businesses.

In 2002, 83 percent of the operating expenses of the Business Finance Team came from portfolio earnings and outside grants. Beginning in 1993, the Economic Development Administration has awarded three revolving loan fund investments for economic development in the city of San Diego. These investments were, in large part, possible due to the excellent stewardship exhibited by the Community and Economic Development's Business Finance Team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding achievement of the City of San Diego's Community and Economic Development and applaud their success in creating jobs and business growth in the San Diego region.

THE BENEFITS OF BIOTECH FOODS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the May 20, 2004, Omaha World-Herald. The editorial highlights the findings in a recent report issued by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. As the U.N. report noted, biotech foods have been found to be safe and hold the potential to alleviate world hunger and disease. Biotech crops have already provided improved crop yields and reduced the demand for chemicals. While reasonable safeguards must remain in place, the continued research and use of biotech foods should be expanded. Those suffering from hunger in developing countries should not be deprived of the benefits of biotech foods simply due to irrational and unscientific fears.

[From the Omaha World-Herald]

BIOTECH'S BENEFITS

A United Nations food agency's new report offering a positive outlook on biotech foods should spur more thoughtful research and regulations on the world stage.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's report found that genetically modified crops have been a help to the world's small farmers without posing any food safety threats. In fact, the group said, the major problem is that the technology hasn't spread fast enough or focused enough on the most beneficial crops.

Basic food crops of the poor such as cassava, potato, rice and wheat receive little attention from scientists, the agency said. Biotechnology holds promise for other important applications, too, such as animal vaccines and breeding.

The recent U.N. report notes that scientists are almost universally agreed that GM crops currently on the market are safe to eat. Even the European Union, where activists have poisoned consumers with fears of GM foods' hazards, has bowed to science and recently ended a moratorium on approving new biotech crops. (Approval of new crops will likely continue to be slow, however, and consumer acceptance limited.)

The U.N. agency offers no blank check for genetic engineering, however, nor should it. Careful environmental scrutiny is needed for each new crop, as the possibility of genes' reaching wild populations exists. Keeping medicinal crops, like those which erroneously reached an Aurora, Neb., co-op elevator a few years ago, in proper channels also must be considered.

But GM foods have brought real help already to the world's poor farmers—more money from improved crop yields, fewer dangers through the reduced use of pesticides. On the horizon is the promise of more nutritious foods and crops that grow in water-parched areas.

World efforts and research dollars should be funneled into those areas.

At the very least, we hope the U.N. report chokes off the fears that have left donated foods rotting in ports while African populations starve.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. MAC THORBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. THORBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on this Memorial Day, let us remember Air Force Captain Eric Das. He was a young man from my district who loved our country, and who lost his life fighting for its ideals in Iraq.

Captain Eric Das, 30, of Amarillo, Texas, was an Air Force pilot for the 333rd Fighter Squadron of the 4th Fighter Wing at North Carolina's Seymour Air Force Base. He was pronounced killed in action on April 18, 2003. Eric was on a bombing mission, flying an F-15E Strike Eagle jet over Iraq, when his plane was shot down on April 6, 2003. Eric has been awarded the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He has also been installed in the Amarillo High School Hall of Fame. He will be remembered for his strong, sure faith in God.

Eric leaves behind his wife, 1st Lieutenant Nikki Das; parents, Bruce and Rosie Das of Amarillo; two sisters, Melody Neumann and Elisa Das, both of Amarillo; and his grandmother, Jessie Renne of Minnesota. Eric was not only a soldier, but a friend to many, a committed husband, and he will be remembered for the lasting impact he had on those who knew him.